President Gorbachev visit to India

732. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) by when President Gorbachev of the USSR is expected to visit India in the near future; and

(b) what subjects are proposed to be discussed with him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) President Gorbachev is visiting India from the 18th to the 20th November; 1988.

(b) A wide range of belateral matters, aimed at further strengthening Indo USSR cooperation will be discussed as also international issues of importance.

Elections in Sri Lanka

733. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state what arrangements and the procedures have been adopted for elections in the northern and eastern provinces in Sri Lanka, the total number of nominations filed for the elections and the names of Tamil groups participating in elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): Elections to the Provincial Council of the combined North Eastern Province in Sri Lanka are to be held in accordance with the Provincial Council Electoral Law and other related laws and procedures. The total number of nominations filed in the eight districts of the North-Eastern Province is 170. The Tamil Parties who are participating in the election are the EPRLF and ENDLF.

Views of shri premadasa regarding withdrawal of IPKF

734. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 10th October, 1988 regarding views expressed by the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka on the question of merger of northern and eastern provinces of Sri Lanka and the withdrawal of IPKF by December, 1988 and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have taken note of Mr. Premadasa's views.

Detenus in IPKF prisons

735. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kittu and other detenues after being taken from prisons of Tamil Nadu, were kept under detention in IPKF prison camps;

(b) what were the modalities adopted for their transportation; and

(c) what is the number of the LTTE detenus who are still in IPKF prison camps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Krishna Kumar, alias Kittu, and 156 other LTTE detenues, who were under detention in the Central jails at Madras and Madurai, were released from these jails on October 9, 1988, and as requested by them, transported to Jaffna, Sri Lanka, in a service aircraft.

(c) As on 27-10-88, 1029 LTTE detenues are lodged in rehabilitation-cum-detention centres.

Ultimatum by kittu, Commander of LTTE

736. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kittu, former Jaffna Commander of LTTE, when he was under detention in Madras Central Jail, gave an ultimatum to Government to start fast unto death from the 10th October, 1988;

(b) what were the specific demands placed by Kittu to Government; and

(c) what steps were taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demands were contained in Kittu's letter to Prime Minister dated October 3, the full text of which was published in 'The Hindu'. The text is attached. (See below)

(c) 157 LTTE detenues, including Kittu, were transported to Jaffna, Sri Lanka, on the 9th October, as requested by them. Kittu and seven others were relased from IPKF custody there on the 12th October,

S. KIDDU
Q II CENTRAL JAIL,
MADRAS.
03.10.1988

To,

Honourable Thiru Rajiv Gandhi,
The Prime Minister of India,
New Delhi.

FAST UNTO DEATH-IN PROTEST AGAINST UNJUSTIFIABLE DETENTION

Sir,

It is a matter of regret that the talks that we had with the representatives of the Government of India collapsed before an agreement could be reached.

I handed over a letter to your representativts by the end of July in which I had clearly expressed that provided an agreement was reached we were ready to surrender our arms and also our willingness to participate in the elections to be held in the North and East.

In that letter I had also stated that our stand was to support the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement if it fulfils tht aspirations of the Tamil speaking people to our homeland.

I made a request to you to declare ceasefire in a particular area anywhere in the North and East for 5 days to enable us to meet and to know from Mr. V. Prabakaran, our leader, his views on what we had discussed during the talks.

But unfortunately our requests were rejected and the talks that were going on between the representatives of the government of India and us were stopped. In the mean-time to our surprise we were arrested and sent to the jail under the security act.

It is I who participated in the talks on behalf of our organisation and I should say that because of my arrest it has now become rather difficult to continue the talks any further. The 10 day ceasefire announcement by the I.P.K.F. had not resulted in any settlement.

Our leader Mr. V. Prabakaran announced during this period of ceasefire that the Government of India should release us from the prison immediately and renew the talks without delay. It is regretable indeed that you brought the ceasefire to an end without paying any heed to his words.

We are not the enemies of peace. What we want is permanent peace. Our comrade Johny was taken by the Government of India to Sri Lanka to assist you to bring back peace, but what happened? He was killed by the I.P.K.F.

My comrades and I were arrested and are now kept in prison for no rhyme or reason. False allegations are made against us.

Have we ever acted on any occasion against the intergrity or the security of India? or have we taken part in any anti-social activity in this country?